

2428 NW 56<sup>th</sup>  
Seattle WA 98107

4 October 2000

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Senator Slade Gorton  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

RE: S.2536 - FDA Labeling Requirements for Irradiated Foods

Dear Senator Gorton:

I am writing to oppose any attempt to change or weaken the current FDA labeling requirements for irradiated foods.

It is my understanding that the USDA/FDA appropriations bill S2536 contains a section requiring the FDA to develop "alternative terms" for describing irradiated foods. There is no better term to describe irradiation than the term "irradiated". Pasteurization is defined by the dictionary as "exposing food to elevated temperature" not ionizing radiation. Alternate terms such as cold pasteurization or electronic pasteurization are designed to deceive.

Consumers here and abroad want straight-forward, prominent labeling of irradiated foods. A free market depends on TRUTHFUL consumer information. Many voters already believe that industry money controls congressional votes. An action such as this would confirm voter cynicism.

I urge you to remove all labeling instructions from the final appropriations bill coming out of the conference committee and let the current FDA requirements for irradiated food stand as they are. Industry can comment directly to the FDA on labeling requirements by submitting its comments like the rest of us.

Please let me know what action you plan to take in response to my letter.

Sincerely,



Jody Grage Haug

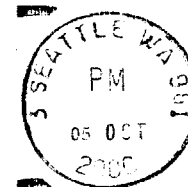
Voter

Cc: President Bill Clinton  
Food & Drug Administration✓

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